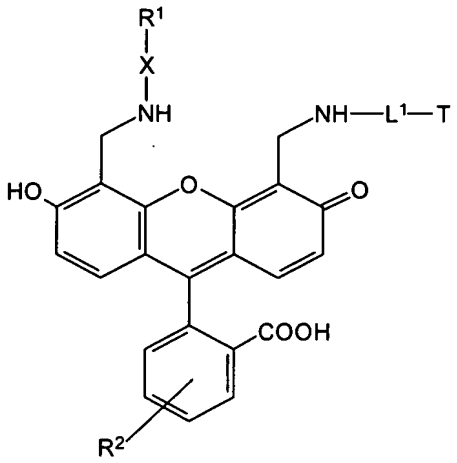
Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (original): A compound of the formula:



wherein:

R^1 is an acceptor dye selected from the group consisting of xanthine dyes, rhodamine dyes and cyanine dyes and wherein R^1 is capable of accepting energy from a fluorescein donor chromophore;

L^1 is a linker chain containing from 2 – 50 linked atoms selected from carbon oxygen, nitrogen, sulphur and phosphorus atoms;

wherein

said chain optionally includes one or more positively or negatively charged groups or one or more unsaturated groups selected from –CR=CR– and

–C≡C–, wherein R represents hydrogen or a C_1 – C_4 alkyl;

or

said chain optionally includes one or more positively or negatively charged groups and one or more unsaturated groups selected from –CR=CR– and

–C≡C–, wherein R represents hydrogen or a C_1 – C_4 alkyl;

R^2 represents H, COOR or CH_2OR; or a chain L^2 containing from 2 – 30 linked atoms selected from carbon oxygen, nitrogen, sulphur and phosphorus atoms;

wherein

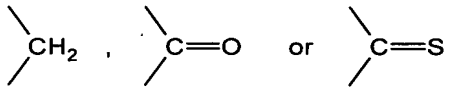
said chain optionally includes one or more positively or negatively charged groups or one or more unsaturated groups selected from –CR=CR– and

–C≡C–, wherein R is defined as above;

or

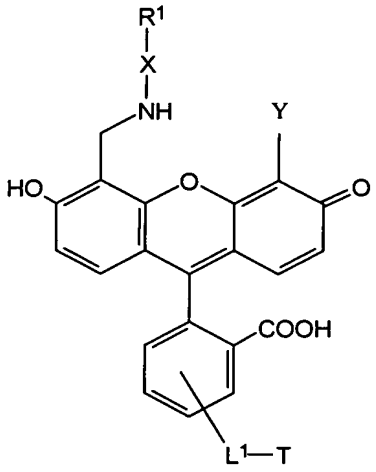
said chain optionally includes one or more positively or negatively charged groups and one or more unsaturated groups selected from –CR=CR– and

–C≡C–, wherein R is defined as above;

X is selected from  ; and

T is a Biological Molecule.

Claim 2 (original): A compound of the formula:



wherein:

R^1 is an acceptor dye selected from the group consisting of xanthine dyes, rhodamine dyes and cyanine dyes and wherein R^1 is capable of accepting energy from a fluorescein donor chromophore;

L^1 is a linker chain containing from 2 – 50 linked atoms selected from carbon oxygen, nitrogen, sulphur and phosphorus atoms;

wherein

said chain optionally includes one or more positively or negatively charged groups or one or more unsaturated groups selected from –CR=CR– and

–C≡C–, wherein R represents hydrogen or a C_1 – C_4 alkyl;

or

said chain optionally includes one or more positively or negatively charged groups and one or more unsaturated groups selected from –CR=CR– and

–C≡C–, wherein R represents hydrogen or a C_1 – C_4 alkyl;

Y represents H, CH_2NH_2, CH_2NHCOR wherein R is defined as above, or CH_2OR wherein R is defined as above; or a chain L^2 containing from 2 – 30 linked atoms selected from carbon oxygen, nitrogen, sulphur and phosphorus atoms;

wherein

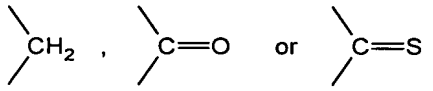
said chain optionally includes one or more positively or negatively charged groups or one or more unsaturated groups selected from –CR=CR– and

–C≡C–, wherein R is hereinbefore defined;

or

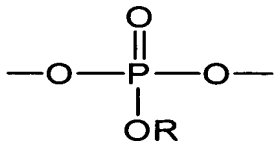
said chain optionally includes one or more positively or negatively charged groups and one or more unsaturated groups selected from –CR=CR– and

–C≡C–, wherein R is hereinbefore defined;

X is selected from  ; and

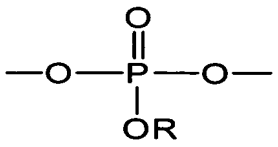
T is a Biological Molecule.

Claim 3 (original): The compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein L^1 is a $C_{2\text{-}50}$ alkyl chain wherein said chain optionally includes one or more groups selected from –C(O)–, –C(S)–, –NR–, $-N^+R_2-$, –O–, –S–, –CR=CR–, –C≡C–, –CO–NR– and



groups, where R is defined as in claim 1 or 2.

Claim 4 (original): The compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein L^2 is a $C_{2\text{-}30}$ alkyl chain wherein said chain optionally includes one or more groups selected from –C(O)–, –C(S)–, –NR–, $-N^+R_2-$, –O–, –S–, –CR=CR–, –C≡C–, –CO–NR– and



groups, where R is defined as in claim 1 or 2

Claim 5 (original): The compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein T is selected from the group consisting of: nucleosides, nucleotides, nucleotide derivatives, oligonucleotides, oligonucleotide derivatives, polynucleotides, polynucleotide derivatives, peptides, proteins, and carbohydrates.

Claim 6 (original): The compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein T is selected from the group consisting of ribonucleotides, 2'- or 3'-deoxyribonucleotides, and 2,3'-dideoxyribonucleotides.

Claim 7 (original): The compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein T is a nucleoside-5'-mono, di, or triphosphate.

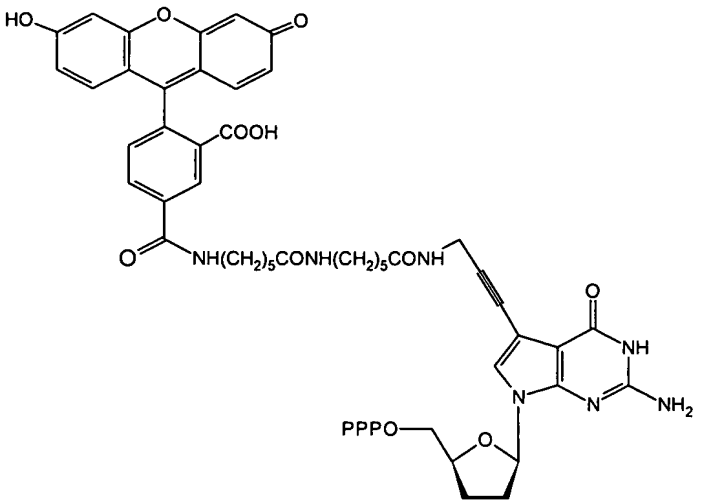
Claim 8 (original): The compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein T is a dideoxynucleoside-5'-triphosphate selected from the group consisting of 2',3'-dideoxycytidine-5'-triphosphate, 2',3'-dideoxythymidine-5'-triphosphate, 2',3'-dideoxyuridine-5'-triphosphate, 2',3'-dideoxyadenosine-5'-triphosphate, 2',3'-dideoxyguanosine-5'-triphosphate and 2',3'-

dideoxyinosine-5'-triphosphate, 2',3'-dideoxy-7-deazaadenosine-5'-triphosphate, 2',3'-dideoxy-7-deazaguanosine-5'-triphosphate, 2',3'-dideoxy-7-deazainosine-5'-triphosphate, and 3'-fluoro, 3'-azido, 3'-amino, or 3'-thio derivatives of the above.

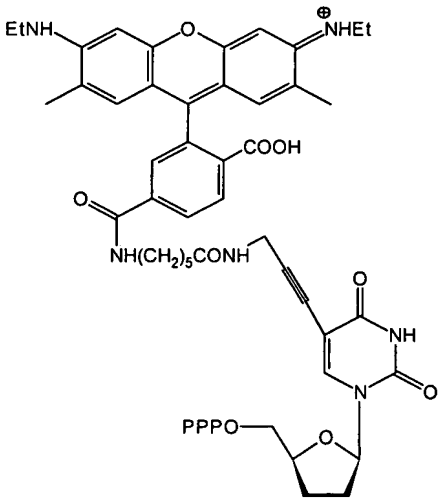
Claim 9 (original): The compound of claim 1 or 2, wherein L^1 is attached to said target molecule at the C-5 position when said target molecule contains a pyrimidine and at the C-7 position when said target molecule contains a 7-deazapurine.

Claim 10 (original): The compound of claim 1 or 2, wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of: fluorescein, naphthofluorescein, rhodol, 5-carboxyrhodamine, 6-carboxyrhodamine, 5-carboxyrhodamine-6-G, 6-carboxyrhodamine-6-G, N, N, N', N'-tetramethyl-5-carboxyrhodamine, N, N, N', N'-tetramethyl-6-carboxyrhodamine, 5-carboxy-X-rhodamine, 6-carboxy-X-rhodamine, Cy3 (3-(ε-carboxypentyl)-1'-ethyl-3, 3, 3', 3'-tetramethyl-5, 5'-disulphonato-carbocyanine), Cy3.5 (3-(ε-carboxypentyl)-1'-ethyl-3, 3, 3', 3'-tetramethyl-4, 5, 4', 5'-(1, 3-disulphonato)dibenzo-carbocyanine, Cy5 (3-(ε-carboxypentyl)-1'-ethyl-3, 3, 3', 3'-tetramethyl-5, 5'-disulphonato)dibenzo-dicarbocyanine, Cy5.5 ((3-(ε-carboxypentyl)-1'-ethyl-3, 3, 3', 3'-tetramethyl-4, 5, 4', 5'-(1, 3-disulphonato)dibenzo-dicarbocyanine, and Cy7 ((3-(ε-carboxypentyl)-1'-ethyl-3, 3, 3', 3'-tetramethyl-5, 5'-(1, 3-disulphonato)tricarbocyanine.

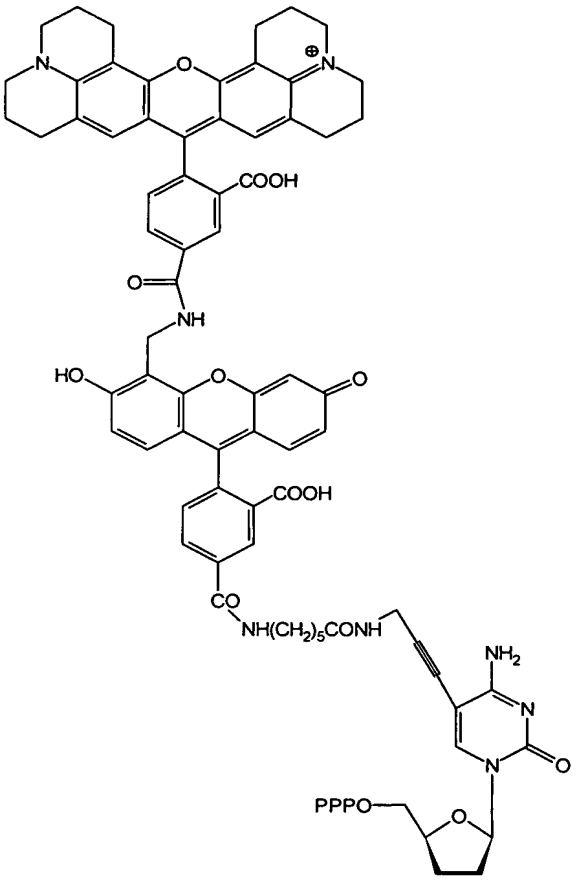
Claim 11 (original): A compound of the formula:



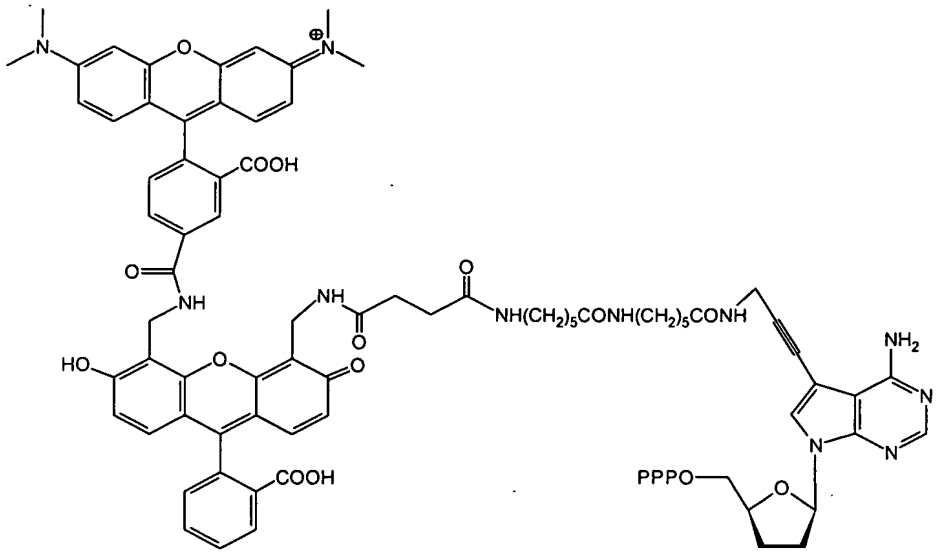
Claim 12 (original): A compound of the formula:



Claim 13 (original): A compound of the formula:



Claim 14 (original): A compound of the formula:



Claim 15 (original): A deoxyribonucleic acid sequence comprising the nucleoside portion of one or more compounds according to any one of claims 11-14.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A method for determining the sequence of a nucleic acid, comprising:

a) providing a sample of said nucleic acid to be sequenced, a primer nucleic acid sequence which is complementary to at least a part of said nucleic acid to be sequenced, a supply of deoxynucleotides and at least one dideoxynucleotide according to claim 8, for terminating the sequencing reaction, and a polymerase;

b) performing nucleic acid chain extension and chain termination reactions; and

c) separating the oligonucleotide fragments according to size;.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A method for determining the sequence of a nucleic acid, comprising:

a) providing a sample of said nucleic acid to be sequenced, a primer nucleic acid sequence which is complementary to at least a part of said nucleic acid to be sequenced, a supply of deoxynucleotides and at least one dideoxynucleotide according to any one of claims 11-14, for terminating the sequencing reaction, and a polymerase;

b) performing nucleic acid chain extension and chain termination reactions; and

c) separating the oligonucleotide fragments according to size.

Claim 18 (original): A kit for DNA sequencing comprising at least one compound according to claim 7.

Claim 19 (original): The kit of claim 18, further comprising a DNA polymerase.